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4:08:55	3	CASE NO. 20-md-02924-ROSENBERG				
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	10	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE				
	11	FOR THE PLAINTIFFS: <b>TRACY A. FINKEN, ESQ.</b> Anapol Weiss				
4:08:55	12	One Logan Square 130 N. 18th Street Suite 1600				
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4:08:55	15	FOR THE DEFENDANTS: M. ELAINE HORN, ESQ. Williams & Connolly				
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13:02:10 THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon, everyone. 1 13:02:14 are here in the matter of In Re: Zantac Products Liability 2 13:02:20 3 Litigation, it's MDL 2924, and we are here for a hearing by 13:02:27 4 Zoom in light of the ongoing COVID pandemic on the brand 13:02:31 Defendants' expedited motion to strike rebuttal expert report 5 13:02:37 6 by Mira M., H-I-D-A-J-A-T, Hidajat, Ph.D., and motion for 13:02:46 7 approval of expedited briefing schedule, Docket Entry 5460, the 13:02:54 8 Plaintiffs' opposition to the motion at Docket Entry 5470, and 13:02:58 9 the reply in support of the motion at Docket Entry 5493. 13:03:00 10 Could we please have counsel who are arguing the 13:03:03 11 motion state your appearance for the record. And feel free to 13:03:06 12 turn your videos on as well. 13:03:10 1.3

MS. HORN: Good afternoon, your Honor, I am Elaine
Horn from Williams & Connelly, I represent Pfizer, but I am
arguing today on behalf of the brand Defendants.

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

MS. FINKEN: Good afternoon, your Honor, Tracy Finken on behalf of Plaintiffs.

THE COURT: Good afternoon. I understand that there has been agreement that the parties wanted 20 minutes each, and that the Defense perhaps was going to reserve a certain amount of that 20 minutes.

Is that correct, and have you decided how much time you wanted to reserve for any rebuttal?

MS. HORN: Yes, five minutes, please.

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THE COURT: Okay. All right. And so, 20 minutes each, five minutes rebuttal for the Defense, and I guess we can get started. I will keep track of the time, as I am sure you will or someone assisting you.

Are you all ready to get started at this time?

MS. HORN: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: I will let you know, of course, that I have read everything, including the report, but look forward to your presentation and, you know, may have a question, but may not, so I will see how it goes.

With that, you may proceed.

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MS. HORN: Okay. So, your Honor, as you stated, we are here on our motion to strike and the crux of this dispute concerns the parties' expert epidemiologist. Plaintiffs have designated two epidemiologists, Dr. Anne McTiernan and Dr. Patricia Moorman, and as part of their work those experts reviewed the current scientific literature on Ranitidine, as well as NDMA, and provided an opinion that they thought that the current scientific literature supported finding a general causation.

As part of that, they looked at specifically data concerning occupational exposure to NDMA, so these are not people who took Ranitidine, they are people who were in a workplace where they were exposed to NDMA. In the case of Dr. Hidajat's work it was U.K. rubber workers.

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So, both of them looked at the work, they analyzed it, and they reached a conclusion that it helped support their general causation opinions. As part of reviewing and analyzing that work both of them went through it and identified certain limitations, and notwithstanding those limitations, they both reached the conclusion that it supported their work and they relied on that.

It is the limitations that are key here. Both of those experts independently identified limitations and weaknesses; some of them overlapped, some of them didn't. For Dr. McTiernan, she identified the inability to deal with confounding factors, that there was not an establishment of the dose of NDMA exposure, that there was an inability to prove that any individual worker was exposed to any specific, you know, level of exposure of NDMA, that there is a difficulty in correlating occupational exposures, whether it is by skin or breathing, to medication exposures, and that there is a failure to adjust for the presence of other known carcinogens in a rubber works workplace.

Similarly, Dr. Patricia Moorman, she also cited the inability to control for confounding factors, specifically smoking, that there is — occupational exposures to NDMA may not track the same type of route that medication exposure would, and that workers within the occupational rubber works field are often exposed to many carcinogens and not just NDMA.

13:07:05 At the appropriate time, the Defendants designated 1 13:07:07 their own experts, including epidemiologists, who addressed the 2 13:07:11 3 points that were raised by those two Plaintiffs' experts. 13:07:18 also looked at the scientific literature and they specifically 13:07:19 looked at the Hidajat research, the rubber works research, 5 13:07:22 because it was relied upon by Plaintiffs' experts. 13:07:24 7 They were not independently bringing it to the table. 13:07:26 8 The only reason they were looking at it was because Plaintiffs'

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They were not independently bringing it to the table. The only reason they were looking at it was because Plaintiffs' experts relied upon it. As part of their review, they also went through the limitations and weaknesses, but they reached contrary conclusions than the ones reached by Plaintiffs' experts.

So, that brings us to Dr. Hidajat. So, at the time of the date in the scheduling order to serve rebuttal experts, the slate that the Plaintiffs served included a brand new expert, and it was Dr. Hidajat herself, who was the lead author of two of the studies that were analyzing the U.K. rubber works data.

In her report there is one sentence that references the Defendants' experts, but otherwise it is basically a summary of the work that she and her team did previously, and there is an expansion of it providing more detail, but it is not actually rebutting anything that the Defendants brought to the table.

In fact, she notes that the limitations that everyone has discussed, but reached different conclusions, that those

are known limitations, that they are acknowledged to some extent in the publications themselves, that it came up in the peer review process, so this is not new.

And to designate her report as a rebuttal report turns the concept of rebuttal on its head. These are issues that were brought to the table for analysis by the Plaintiffs' experts. We responded and you don't turn around and then bring a third expert to amplify what your first two experts said and call that rebuttal.

Both parties cite a range of cases, and if you look at those cases, generally, when you are providing rebuttal evidence you are rebutting some issue or new material or new information that was affirmatively brought to the table by your opposing party, and that is not what is going on here.

This report was something that could easily have been served with the January reports. As I said, if you just took a pen and struck through the sentence that references the Defendants and change the date, it would be perfectly agreed, just like the other reports that were served in January.

We know from her report that Dr. Hidajat was retained had in November 2020, so well before the expert deadline. The opinions that she presents, they closely track the opinions that are already in the original slate of experts, Dr. McTiernan and Dr. Moorman, and none of the limitations or weaknesses that she is addressing were unknown.

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This untimely submission, because it is untimely, it prejudices the Defendants. As you know, today is April 29th, the cutoff for expert discovery is May 31st, just a month away, and between now and then the parties have to depose, between both two sides, over 21 experts. Seven of those experts are going to be deposed over two days, and at this point, we are double tracking and in some instances triple tracking depositions.

It is just unfair to inject at this late stage an entirely new expert. We have a scheduling order that was agreed to by both of the parties and approved by the Court, and it should not be derailed at this 11th hour, so we are asking that you strike the Dr. Hidajat report.

Thank you.

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THE COURT: Okay, thank you. You didn't even come close to using all of your time. That was six minutes and 35 seconds so you will have time to rebut if you need it.

Okay. With that, then, let me hear the response from Plaintiff, from Ms. Finken.

MS. FINKEN: Thank you, your Honor, Tracy Finken on behalf of Plaintiffs. I hope not to take my entire 20 minutes as well, I will try to be brief.

Plaintiffs respectfully request that your Honor deny Defendants' motion to strike. Rule 26 allows for the parties to submit rebuttal expert reports as long as they directly

address the -- or contradict or rebut the evidence on the same subject matter identified by another party's designated expert.

PTO 65 in this case allowed for rebuttal expert reports, they were due on March 28th, and Plaintiffs timely submitted Dr. Hidajat's rebuttal report on that date, and I don't think that issue is in dispute.

Dr. Hidajat is the lead author on a study that was attached as Exhibit 1 to Plaintiffs' opposition to the brief, and on page three of her report, which is attached as Exhibit 2, Dr. Hidajat directly addresses the criticisms of her study and the methodologies that she used in her study that were raised by the Defense experts, Dr. Terry, Dr. Witte, Dr. Chan, and Dr. Wang, and it is in relation to five specific categories that relate to the methodology that she used within her study.

Dr. Hidajat's opinions in her rebuttal report are limited to the four corners of her study, they do not go beyond the boundaries of the four corners of her study, and they relate to the methodologies and the qualifications of the individuals that were involved in that study.

So, there are Courts in this district, your Honor, that find it permissible to use a rebuttal expert who has specialized knowledge to rebut assumptions of another expert. You can find that in Ohio State Troopers, which Plaintiffs cite in Footnote 9 on page five of their opposition brief, and that is precisely, precisely what Dr. Hidajat is in this case.

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She has specialized knowledge about her study, and she has been brought in as a rebuttal expert to rebut the assumptions that Defendants' expert epidemiologists have made about her studying the methodologies that were used in her study. Like I said, her opinions are limited to the four corners of her report.

The reality is, your honor, that the Defendants take issue with one -- one sentence in Dr. Hidajat's report, and that is the last sentence, which is on page 28 of her report where she states her opinion that NDMA can cause cancer. This opinion is based on the findings in her study which, as I said, was attached as Exhibit 1.

I direct your Honor's attention specifically to page 257 and 258 of Exhibit 1, her study, where Dr. Hidajat and her colleagues found a linear exposure response, otherwise known as a dose response, association of NDMA with an increased risk of mortality from cancers of the bladder, liver, stomach, among others.

Despite this one single offending sentence, Defendants seek to strike Dr. Hidajat's report in its entirety, and this is improper. Moreover, your honor, it would be highly, highly prejudicial to Plaintiffs to grant this motion.

Plaintiffs' experts -- and your Honor has the expert reports so you are well aware -- rely on many, many studies to support their conclusions that the NDMA found in Ranitidine can

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cause stomach, esophageal, bladder, liver, and pancreatic cancers. Plaintiffs could not possibly anticipate what arguments or criticisms that the Defense experts would raise in relation to that large volume of literature that Plaintiffs' experts rely on which demonstrates and supports their opinions.

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For example, Dr. Panigrahy, he cited to 530 peer reviewed publications to support his conclusions that NDMA causes the five cancers at issue here. Dr. Moorman cited to 276 peer reviewed publications to support her conclusions that NDMA and Ranitidine cause the five cancers here, and Dr. Salmon, another example, cites to 274 peer reviewed publications to support his conclusions.

It is unreasonable to suggest that Plaintiffs should anticipate exactly which publications Defendants would target as a primary focus in their defense.

However, your Honor, after receipt of Defendants' expert reports, it is clear that they have targeted Dr. Hidajat's methodologies and her study as a significant part of the defense of this case. In fact, a prime example, beyond the opinions of the Defendants' experts that criticize the Hidajat study with no support, the Defense has spent considerable time attacking aggressively Defense — the Plaintiffs' experts at deposition about the methodologies in the Hidajat study.

For example, on Monday and Tuesday of this week

Defense took the deposition of expert Dr. Dipak Panigrahy, one

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of Plaintiffs biocancer research experts, and even though Dr. Panigrahy's opinions and methodology regarding NDMA's ability to cause human cancers have already been deemed reliable by Judge Kugler in the District Court of New Jersey, Defense counsel cross-examined Dr. Panigrahy for ten hours on the record and specifically asked over 120 questions related to the methodologies in the Hidajat study. Many of the issues that Defense counsel cross-examined Dr. Panigrahy about centered on the issues that Dr. Hidajat addresses in her rebuttal report.

The significance of Dr. Hidajat's report and study to this case is telling given the great lengths Defendants are going to in an attempt to strike Dr. Hidajat as an expert.

Rather than pose these questions directly to the author of the study herself, she is the lead author on that study, they would rather spend their time moving to strike that and posing over 120 questions to other Plaintiffs' experts in the case about the methodology in that particular study.

Just moving on, your Honor, if you should agree with the Defendants that the rebuttal report should have been submitted on January 24th in Plaintiffs case in chief, it is certainly within the Court's discretion whether to permit it at this juncture.

As I said, respectfully, it would be extremely prejudicial to Plaintiffs to strike Dr. Hidajat's report in its

entirety given the Defense attack on the Hidajat study is a primary part of their defense, and especially since a trial date has not even been set in this case.

The rebuttal report was served before any

Plaintiffs -- sorry, any expert depositions had been taken at
all, and when it was served we had a meet and confer about
this, and Plaintiffs concede that the deposition of Dr. Hidajat
is appropriate. We also discussed the possibility of Defense
experts being able to file a rebuttal to Dr. Hidajat's
rebuttal. Defendants declined to do that. Instead, they filed
a motion to strike, and here we are one month later, and the
time, you know, has passed.

We -- it is our position that there is no prejudice to Defendants to allow Dr. Hidajat opinions and her report to go forward. There are more than seven large law firms representing the Defendants in this case, many of whom we see on every conference, and there is more than a month left to take a single deposition of one rebuttal witness that has a very narrow area of focus concerning the four corners of her study.

Given the extraordinary amount of time that Defense counsel spent cross-examining Dr. Panigrahy, it is abundantly clear that Defendants are adequately prepared to take that deposition, and it is simply disingenuous at best for Defendants to say that they cannot get that done within the

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confines of the expert deadlines in this case.

I say that, your Honor, because we have been having multiple expert depositions this week. We had a two-day deposition of Dr. Panigrahy. There were more than five lawyers for Sanofi on that deposition, there were more than three lawyers for GSK on that deposition, and similarly, we have the deposition going forward yesterday and today for Dr. McTiernan, there are more than seven or eight Defense lawyers on that deposition.

Surely they can spare a single lawyer, or even two, to take a single narrowly focused deposition of Dr. Hidajat within the next month, and Plaintiffs are certainly willing to work with the Defendants to make sure that that deposition can occur.

With that being said, your Honor, we believe that the Defendants' motion should be denied, and we should proceed with the scheduling of Dr. Hidajat's deposition, and I am certainly happy to answer any questions that Your Honor might have.

THE COURT: Thank you, that was about 9:59.

MS. HORN: Thank you, your Honor. Ms. Finken referenced the voluminous number of citations that her other experts relied on in their report and that it would be unreasonable to anticipate what types of attacks could come to

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those particular other study authors. The thing is, here they obviously did anticipate the issue of Dr. Hidajat's research because they retained her in November 2020. So, it was not a surprise that someone was going to criticize her work, they were anticipating that. Why they did not submit a report from her in accordance with the actual schedule is unknown.

Plaintiffs say that the -- basically, Dr. Hidajat's

Plaintiffs say that the -- basically, Dr. Hidajat's rebuttal report is limited to the four corners of her study, which is the -- there's two parts, I'm sure which publication that specifically she is referencing, but regardless, they are all from 2019.

If that is the case, that same report has already been analyzed and reviewed and discussed by Plaintiffs' other epidemiologists. Again, the criticisms about the methodology, those were already noted in large part by Plaintiffs' own experts. They are noted to some extent — or preemptively addressed in the publication and Dr. Hidajat noted that these same types of questions came up during the peer review process.

None of this is new, none of this is new, and

Defendants are entitled to rely upon the schedule that is in

place, and so they are entitled to, you know, work with the

schedule that we have, schedule in the experts that are already

in existence.

The Defense attorneys are not interchangeable. I cannot speak to the specific identity of the people that

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Ms. Finken referenced, but I am sure some of them may have been associates who were learning about depositions. It could have been a wide range of things, but again, these are people who are not interchangeable.

There are some people who are focused on epidemiology, which is not new, not news, that's what happens. There are some people that are focused on other topics, but the people who are focused on these issues, they are booked up, as I said, through the end of May. We all planned ahead and everything has been scheduled through the end of May, so it would be very unfair to now throw in this completely curve ball new expert.

Ms. Finken referenced the fact that Dr. Hidajat -that we take issue with Dr. Hidajat's conclusion that NDMA
causes cancer. Of course, many of Plaintiffs' experts reach
that conclusion. That is not something that is novel or new,
and that is not the reason that we want to strike her report.

We want to strike her report because it is out of time and it is new. The report itself is new, not that particular conclusion.

So, your Honor, we again would ask that our motion be granted, but if it is not granted, we don't believe that it would be fair to try to schedule in both the additional deposition of Dr. Hidajat before May 31st, and as Ms. Finken noted, we believe for some of our experts we need to file rebuttal reports as well. Given the fact that everything has

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been planned out and we are completely booked, it would not be reasonable to try to get that all done before May 31st, so we ask that you grant our motion and strike the report.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay, thank you very much.

So, from the Plaintiffs, why wasn't Hidajat named as a primary expert if she is so important and her report and her study or studies are so important, and she is the subject at least in part of the McTiernan and Moorman, and I guess she — coupled with that question, she offers at the very end of her report on page 28 — she says: Taken together, based on the totality of the evidence, it is my professional opinion within a reasonable degree of scientific certainty that NDMA can cause cancer.

Then earlier up on that page in the conclusion she says: There were other statistically significant findings for cancer mortality for which we -- I am sorry -- which we did not conduct sensitivity analysis on. That was not as relevant to my question.

So, I guess just to recap, why was she not named initially given, I am sensing from Plaintiff, they consider her study to be very important? It is not that it is important because the Defendants have necessarily attacked it, but I am presuming the Plaintiffs feel her study is important, and in fact, two of your primary general causation experts, at least

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two, rely upon her, and then she makes this -- she offers this opinion that within scientific certainty that NDMA causes cancer, which is what the Plaintiffs are trying to establish, and there certainly is a body of case law that speaks about the burden is on the Plaintiff in that regard and so that should be put forth in -- that is something that is put forth in the case in chief for the Plaintiff.

So, I guess that is one question I have for Plaintiffs, for Ms. Finken.

MS. FINKEN: Certainly, your Honor. First, Dr. Hidajat was retained as a consulting expert, she is not giving a general causation opinion because, obviously, we want to be offering up a general causation opinion based on one singular epidemiological study. That is all she addresses in her report, and her conclusion at the end of her rebuttal report is related to her findings within the study itself.

Plaintiffs did not intend to put Dr. Hidajat up as an expert at all. We were using her as a consulting expert, but given the assumptions that were made and criticizing the methodology of Dr. Hidajat's study, we felt that we had no choice but to do that in a rebuttal manner.

One of the things, your Honor, to be frank, we could have easily offered the information about the methodology and the assumptions that were made in an affidavit as a fact witness and attached it to the Daubert briefing. Defendants

would have cried foul that they didn't have the opportunity to depose her, so we wanted to be transparent and offer her up as a rebuttal expert witness so they could actually depose her, thoroughly ask her about her methodologies and the assumptions that were made and be transparent about the situation.

I mean, we had weighed whether or not it just made sense to address those assumptions in an affidavit and call her as a fact witness.

We are trying to be transparent and offering her as a rebuttal witness so that the Defendants can thoroughly explore her opinions about her study and the methodologies that were undertaken for that study. She is certainly not offering a general causation opinion. That particular sentence pertains to the findings that she made in her study.

However, your Honor, I would submit that if your Honor was inclined to strike anything, it would be that particular sentence, and not the entirety of Dr. Hidajat's report if you think that that particular sentence in the report is improper as a rebuttal opinion.

THE COURT: Okay, thank you. Just a general question. It sounds like you have your depo schedule already in place. Maybe you shared it with me, but I don't have the answer here. Can you tell me when Drs. Chan, Terry, Witte, and Wang's depos are set?

MS. FINKEN: Your Honor, they are set the last week of

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May, May 26th, May 27th, May 30th, May 31st. Those four are 13:30:10 1 13:30:21 set for the very last days of this expert discovery schedule, 2 13:30:25 3 with Dr. Terry being the last one on May 31st. 13:30:44 THE COURT: Why aren't McTiernan and Moorman, why 13:30:46 5 aren't their rebuttal reports sufficient to address any 13:30:49 6 criticisms that Chan, Terry, Witte, and Wang have lodged 13:30:55 7 against Hidajat's study and her methodology and, you know, the various things that kind of are summarized with the five bullet 13:31:07 8 13:31:10 9 points on page three of the report and then expanded upon

MS. FINKEN: And that is very -- that is a great question, your Honor, and the reason is that Dr. Hidajat has specialized knowledge about the analysis and the methodology that was undertaken that Dr. McTiernan and Dr. Moorman would not be able to necessarily glean just from a publication.

throughout the study -- throughout her report itself?

Dr. Hidajat is the only one who has the entirety of the body of knowledge about the methodology, the peer review process, and everything that was undertaken for purposes of this study and the multiple publications that came out of this study, and she is in the best position to support that methodology in the study.

She is the one who has the specialized knowledge about it, and the experts that she is rebutting have made criticisms of her report that are unsupported based on assumptions, and those assumptions can only properly be addressed by the study

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author herself, who is the only one who has the entirety of the body of knowledge to address those criticisms that, like I said, are based on assumptions and there are no references as to why they are criticizing those reports for those reasons.

Drs. McTiernan and Moorman would not necessary have access to some of that information. It is not only Drs.

McTiernan and Moorman who are at issue here. Like I said, Dr. Panigrahy was questioned for a significant amount of time on Tuesday, over 120 questions about specifically the methodology in Dr. Hidajat's report.

THE COURT: Could that expert answer the questions?

MS. FINKEN: Some of them he could, but only what was contained within the publication. If it is not within the body of the publication itself, it is not something that he would be able to answer.

THE COURT: Sorry to interrupt. That is really a question I have. There are some things that only she knows because it is in her brain, it is in her mind. It is, as you call it, her own specialized knowledge.

So, I think you are acknowledging that there are aspects of what is in her report that were not and could not have been in McTiernan's or Moorman's report, and so even though some — either none, some, or all, that is where the dispute lies in terms of kind of the — is it substantially sort of the same subject matter. There were attacks lodged at

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methodologies. Surely McTiernan and Moorman had to understand methodologies to be able to rely upon it and come to their own conclusion.

So one would presume a certain level of comfort that they must have had in relying upon the report in the ways that they did, but in introducing a specialized knowledge in a rebuttal report that I think you are saying has never been disclosed before, so it is brand new -- not the methodology, not the limitations, not necessarily the conclusions, but the specialized knowledge brought to the table by Hidajat is anew, and really, shouldn't rebuttal reports not be bringing something to the table anew? I mean, doesn't that run counter to a rebuttal report?

MS. FINKEN: Your Honor, there is actually authority that suggests that if a rebuttal expert has specialized knowledge to rebut assumptions that are being made by another expert, that that is proper rebuttal testimony.

As I stated, you can find that in Ohio State Troopers, which is cited in Footnote 9 of Plaintiffs' opposition and that is expressly stated here.

I want to make this really clear.

THE COURT: In that case, I am sorry, was the specialized knowledge brought up initially? Was it out there initially, and then it comes back again also in the rebuttal, or was it brought up for the first time in the rebuttal?

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13:35:40 MS. FINKEN: It was brought up initially, but here it 1 13:35:42 was brought up initially, too. Dr. Hidajat's study was 2 13:35:46 3 discussed I think in every expert report in this case. 13:35:54 4 it becomes problematic is that Defendants attack the 13:35:55 Plaintiffs' experts for relying on Hidajat because they are 5 13:35:59 6 talking about what they believe is an improper methodology or a 13:36:02 7 failure to consider certain conditions, and the only person who 13:36:07 8 can truly support the methodology that was used in that study 13:36:11 9 are the study investigators and the study authors. It is not an epidemiologist's role to assess the 13:36:16 10 13:36:23 specific methodologies of every single study that they rely on. 11 13:36:28 12 I mean they certainly look at the strengths and the limitations 13:36:32 13 of the study and look at the methods, but unless they are in 13:36:35 14 the investigator's shoes, they can't answer all of those 13:36:38 15 specific questions. 13:36:39 16 13:36:42 17

There were assumptions being made by the Defense experts, and just ipse dixit attack of the methodology in Dr. Hidajat's report.

It is certainly not new information. It was used to rebut the assumptions being made by the Defense experts and that is all. It is limited to the four corners of her study, it is a very targeted rebuttal report, and under the case law that is out there, it is Plaintiffs' contention that it is proper.

I just lost my train --

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THE COURT: Does that open the door -- I think Defense made this point, and it is not as if you have done it with other studies, but is it the Plaintiffs' position that if a study that is relied upon by a primary expert is attacked by way of methodology, which seems to be a common attack on experts, you know, their qualifications or their methodologies, you know, which covers really a whole range of things, that you just bring in the author of the study to rebut because that author is the only person who has the specialized knowledge?

MS. FINKEN: Your Honor, I think that — that is a good question. Honestly, I don't know. I can tell you, though, that we had Dr. Hidajat already as a consulting expert, which is why we did it. We certainly didn't reach out to every study that they criticized the methodology to provide a rebuttal expert report.

The one thing I do want to point out -- and it just came to me where I had lost my train of thought -- is it is not just Drs. Moorman and McTiernan who rely on Dr. Hidajat's study, Dr. Hidajat's study is relied upon by Dr. Panigrahy and Dr. Salmon, and in particular, in relation to dose of NDMA that would provide certain cancers.

So, to exclude her ability to justify the methodology and criteria and some of the confounders that were taken into effect during that study, like I said, we believe would be highly prejudicial to Plaintiffs. Since there is no prejudice

to Defendants for this disclosure, they have the ability to take the deposition, they have the ability to rebut it if necessary, Plaintiffs would submit that it would be appropriate to allow her to testify in this case.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, I appreciate it.

Let me make sure I don't have any more questions. Let me look at my notes real quick.

MS. FINKEN: Respectfully, your Honor, one last point to make. Ms. Horn has actually stated herself during her argument that there is nothing new that Dr. Hidajat -- it is not new evidence that she is discussing. So, I just wanted to point that out in response to your Honor's question on whether this is new or novel and should not -- would not be appropriate for rebuttal testimony.

MS. HORN: Can I speak to that, your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes. I know that the Defendants -- on page seven of your motion you say in the first full paragraph that the doctor offers novel opinions on the studies that are entirely absent from the opening reports submitted by the other general causation experts, and then you go through a litany of what those are with citations to her study.

MS. HORN: Correct. My reference, though, is to the limitations and weaknesses that we are criticizing, that those criticisms were already known well before Defendants ever filed their particular expert reports.

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13:41:08 1 THE COURT: What did you mean by the novel opinions on 13:41:12 2 page seven?

13:41:15 3 MS. HORN: That's referencing the same types of

MS. HORN: That's referencing the same types of information that Ms. Finken is referencing, basically adding in new information or details about how certain things were considered.

THE COURT: Specialized knowledge? In other words, you are calling novel opinions what Ms. Finken is calling the specialized knowledge?

MS. HORN: Correct. Just to carry on from that, it is also important to note that presumably when Plaintiffs' other experts, like Dr. McTiernan, when they relied upon Dr. Hidajat's work, or the publications, they didn't have all of this extra little detail that Dr. Hidajat is apparently wanting to bring in now.

They were relying on the four corners, as she says, of the publications, and it's -- they were relying on it, our experts were criticizing their reliance because of these issues. The fact that they are able to potentially address those issues doesn't change the fact that their original experts were willing to rely on the studies without having those issues addressed.

That calls into question the conclusions reached by their original experts.

MS. FINKEN: Your Honor, can I respond to that?

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THE COURT: The Defendants can make that argument regardless, whether she is offered as an expert or not. If her — if they weren't privy to this kind of detail of her methodology, and your experts say that is a problem, I mean, wouldn't that still be fair game for the Defendants to cross-examine or seek to impeach, at least her conclusions?

Now Plaintiffs are fighting for a chance to have the author herself in a separate conversation, sort of say how she did things and maybe why they weren't flawed in the way that the Defendants are saying they are, although the Plaintiffs' experts note the limitations as well.

MS. FINKEN: Your Honor, can I respond to that briefly? Because I think that this is a really critical distinction.

Plaintiffs' experts point out the limitations in the study, the body of the study, and the strengths, strengths and limitations, like they do with all of the epidemiology studies that are out there.

The Defense experts criticize the Plaintiffs' methodology for how they approach the study because the Defense experts, their methodology is unreliable because they are making assumptions that they don't know, assumptions about the Hidajat study that they are citing in the report that are completely unfounded and unsupported.

THE COURT: But they wouldn't know otherwise, right?

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There was nothing, presumably, put before the Defendants to -- you know, I am not taking sides one way or the other, but if it this was never put forward as to how the study was conducted, the methodology, you know, I guess they could just not address it at all, or you make assumptions.

You are saying the assumptions are wrong, your assumptions are wrong, but they had — they didn't have anything, presumably. Nothing that was put forth by the Plaintiffs, are you saying, that would have given them a reason to reach a conclusion one way or the other, so they shouldn't have drawn any assumptions?

Or now that they have drawn assumptions and they are wrong, we want to come back with something new in terms of like the specialized knowledge, or the novel opinion, however we want to call it, we are all agreeing — I guess the parties are agreeing, you know, that part is new, and so now it is coming forward.

So now they are saying, oh, okay, well, we didn't have that before, maybe we would have come up with a different assumption or a different conclusion even. Is that fair?

MS. FINKEN: Well, your Honor, I think the thing that is critical to make the point is that they could have relied on the limitations and the strengths and the information contained in the study report, but they went one step further, they made assumptions that they have no grounds or nothing supporting

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those assumptions, and used it to attack our Plaintiffs' experts in the case in chief.

So Dr. Hidajat's singular role is to provide a rebuttal report to correct and rebut those assumptions. That is all she is doing here. She is not providing a general causation expert report. It was improper for the Defendants to attack the methodology and make assumptions based on no supporting evidence whatsoever.

THE COURT: Did the Plaintiffs' rebuttal expert reports -- I don't have everything at my fingertips -- by McTiernan and Moorman point out that the Defendants -- the four Defendants' experts, Chan and Terry and Witte and Wang, had no basis to make those assumptions, they are just out of left field? There is no basis, no foundation on which they can -- there is no scientific methodology, there is nothing reasonable about the Defendants' experts making those assumptions, did they point that out in their rebuttal reports?

MS. FINKEN: Your Honor, I would have to check. I know that they rebutted some experts, and off the top of my head -- I would have to go pull them up, but some of the experts did provide rebuttals to some of the Defense experts, those four Defense experts.

Whether they spoke specifically to assumptions made by them on the Hidajat study, I am uncertain as I sit here today in all honesty. I would have to go and check.

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13:47:39 THE COURT: Ms. Horn, do you know offhand? 1 MS. HORN: I don't actually. The people who know this 13:47:40 2 13:47:41 3 particular point, the vast are actually in a deposition right 13:47:45 4 I don't have that specific level of detail. THE COURT: That is fine. That is fine. 13:47:50 5 13:47:51 6 Was there one other thing, Ms. Finken, you wanted to 13:47:54 7 say? 13:47:55 8 MS. FINKEN: No, your Honor. I just want to stress 13:47:55 9 that Plaintiffs could have just, as I said previously, submitted the information as an affidavit and had Dr. Hidajat 13:48:02 10 as a fact witness to basically attack the assumptions that were 13:48:06 11 13:48:09 12 being made in her study; however, we chose to be transparent, 13:48:17 13 give the Defendants the opportunity to depose her as an expert, 13:48:20 discuss her methodologies in detail, and we gave them plenty of 14 13:48:22 15 time to do that. 13:48:24 16 It has been a month since those reports were served. 13:48:26 17 We could have had a deposition by now. We are willing to work 13:48:28 18 with them to make sure that happens within the confines of the 13:48:31 19 expert discovery deadline that is in place today. Thank you. 13:48:35 20 THE COURT: Thank you both very much. Nice to see 13:48:37 21 both of you. 13:48:38 22 MS. FINKEN: Good to see you as well, have a great 13:48:42 23 weekend. 13:48:43 24 THE COURT: You, too, take care, bye-bye. 13:48:45 25 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded.)

13:48:47 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript 13:48:47 from the record of proceedings in the above matter. 13:48:47 13:48:47 13:48:47 Date: April 29, 2022 /s/ Pauline A. Stipes, Official Federal Reporter 13:48:47 Signature of Court Reporter 13:48:48 

Pauline A. Stipes, Official Federal Reporter

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